

Message Text

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61

ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, EGEN

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA-AGENDA ITEM 63: UNDRO GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY: ITEM INTRODUCED BY UNDRO COORDINATOR BERKOL WHO FOCUSED ON SITUATION OF PORTUGUESE RETURNEES, STRENGTHENING DISASTER PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES, AND THE CONVENING OF AN EXPERTS CONSULTATIVE GROUP. REPS OF 13 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST DAYS DEBATE. ONLY ISSUE TO EMERGE WAS LDC SUPPORT OF AND DC HESITANCY ABOUT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRUST FUND. DEBATE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER 6 WHEN US INSCRIBED TO SPEAK.
END SUMMARY

2. UN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR BERKOL INTRODUCED THIS ITEM ON AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 5. HE OPENED BY BRIEFLY DISCUSSING THE SOMALIA SITUATION AND THEN DEVOTED MUCH MORE TIME TO THE PROBLEM OF PORTUGUESE RETURNEES. FOLLOWING OCT. 8 REQUEST ON GOP, UNDRC DISPATCHED A PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE. BASED ON HIS REPORT AS WELL AS CONSULTATIONS WITH WFP, ICRC, AND ICEM, UNDRO HAS UNDERTAKEN THE MOBILIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. BERKOL CONCLUDED THIS PART OF HIS STATEMENT BY APPEALING TO GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER DONOR SOURCES TO RESPOND
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TO UNDRO REQUESTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.

3. BERKOL EMPHASIZED UNDRO'S ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO DISASTER PREVENTION /PREPAREDNESS AND CALLED FOR INCREASED FUNDING AS PER ECOSOC RES 1972 FOR BOTH EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. HE THANKED THOSE WHO HAD MADE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN UNDRO AND CALLED ON OTHERS TO DO SO. FINALLY, AS REGARDS EXPERT ADVISERS, HE SAID: "I THEREFORE ENVISAGE CONVENING ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR, AS NECESSARY, A SMALL GROUP OF EXPERTS WHO WOULD BE SELECTED FROM BOTH DONOR AND RECIPIENT COUNTRIES, TO ASSIST ME IN ASSESSING PROGRESS AND ADVISE ME ON CONTINUING PROGRAMMES."

4. REPS OF 13 COUNTRIES (DENMARK, ROMANIA, BELGIUM, BANGLADESH, IRAN, PORTUGAL, SOMALIA, GDR, TURKEY, FRG, UK, \$3.9:4-58: YEMEN AND FRANCE) PARTICIPATED IN FIRST DAYS DISCUSSION. THE ONLY ISSUE TO CLEARLY EMERGE WAS LDC SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF UNDRO FUNDING THROUGH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRUST FUND AS OPPOSED TO DC RELUCTANCE. DENMARK (SPEAKING FOR NORDIC COUNTRIES) CALLED FOR UNDRO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS TO BE FUNDED FROM UN REGULAR BUDGET AND FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BE FUNDED FROM WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS UNTIL SUCH TIME AS IT CAN BE COVERED BY UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING. THIS APPROACH WAS SUPPORTED BY UK AND FRENCH REPS.

5. OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN STATEMENTS WERE: (A) BELGIAN ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2 MILLION FRENCH VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR 1976-77; (B) BANGLADESH PROPOSAL FOR A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME COVERING SHORT-,MEDIUM-,AND LONG-TERM RECONSTRUCTION MEASURES; AND (C) IRANIAN PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HONORARY COMMITTEE OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS AS WELL AS NATIONAL COMMITTEES TO HELP IN MOBILIZING VOLUNTARY FUNDS (LATER SUPPORTED BY FRENCH);

6. SOVIET BLOC REPS CONTINUED THEIR PATTERN OF IRRELEVANCE WITH GDR DESCRIBING THE DEVASTATING EFFECT OF NATURAL DISASTERS AS "A CONSEQUENCE OF COLONIAL RULE" AND ROMANIAN CALLING FOR REDUCED ARMS EXPENDITURES.

7. US INSISTED TO SPEAK ON NOVEMBER 6, THE LAST SCHEDULED
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DAY FOR DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE.
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